Therefore, the demand raised by the Inspectors of Post Offices in Himachal Pradesh is not justified.

Clearing of waiting list of telephones in certain towns of Andhra Pradesh

102. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the waiting list of telephones in Visakhapatnam, Srikothulam, Kakinada and Raja-hundy towns of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what is the schedule for clearing the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Waiting list of Telephones as on 30-6-93 in towns are listed below:

1. Visakhapatnam	13056
2. Sri Kothulam	659
3. Kakinada	11637
4. Rajhamundry	1740

(b) As per 8th Plan objective, the waiting period for telephone connection is to be reduced to two years in large telephone system and telephones practically on demand in rural/tribal areas, by the end of 8th Plan period (92—97). The expansion of the exchanges are being planned accordingly to meet the above objective.

Equipment purchased by the DOT

103. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount spent on stores and equipment purchased by the Department of Telecommunications from within and from outside the country during the last three years;

(b) what is the amount of such equipment which was lying unused at the end of this period;

(c) what is the mechanism of audit and social audit of such purchases; and

(d) whether any adverse remarks have been made by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India with respect to such purchases during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shifting of telephones in Delhi and New Delhi

104. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications for Telephone transfers from exchange 646 to 727 which are pending in Delhi/New Delhi for the last more than two years;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in transferring the telephones; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to reduce the delay in shifting and transferring the telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, No case for transfer of telephone from 646 to 727 exchange is pending for last more than two years.

(b) Delays occur at times due to exchange capacity not being available at the incoming exchange and due to incorrect/incomplete information provided by the applicant.

(c) (i) The planning for augmentation of capacities of various exchanges is done on the basis of registered demands, requests for incoming shifts and anticipatory demands on these accounts.

(ii) A standard application form for shifts has been introduced to enable the applicant to provide all the required information.

(iii) Computerization associated with paperwork of shifts has been taken up.